

21st century. One in four Native Americans live in poverty, and our failure to provide educational resources they need is a major reason why.

We have been doing less and less for tribal education in recent years, letting funding for repairs and modernization decrease dramatically. As a result, there is a huge backlog of tribal schools and facilities that require major repairs or complete replacement. As long as we continue to allow funding levels for tribal school construction to fall, that number will keep growing.

It's time for us to do more, and this amendment is a great step in the right direction. By doubling the funding available for improving tribal school facilities, we will be putting our resources where they are needed most and can do the most good. This funding will go a long way towards addressing basic needs in my district and at schools across the Nation, helping ensure that kids living on tribal lands have the same opportunities as every other child in the country. I urge my colleagues to support it.

CELEBRATION OF JONESBORO GEORGIA'S 150TH BIRTHDAY

HON. DAVID SCOTT

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 14, 2009

Mr. SCOTT of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the historic city of Jonesboro, Georgia on the occasion of its 150th anniversary.

Officially founded as a town in 1859, Jonesboro existed as a small rural community until the rise of industrialization during the mid-19th century. Named after Colonel Samuel Goode Jones, an engineer who organized the construction of the first paved roads in town, Jonesboro continued to prosper until the outbreak of the Civil War in 1861.

The legendary Battle of Jonesboro will always be remembered by our nation as one of the more significant milestones of the American Civil War. Because of the defeat of Confederate troops at the Battle of Jonesboro, General Sherman's army was successful in occupying the city of Atlanta, an event which directly contributed to the surrendering of the Confederate army in 1865. Following the end of the Civil War, Jonesboro began an arduous and trying period of reconstruction, along with the rest of the American South.

The town of Jonesboro persevered through these numerous challenges and is known today for its extraordinary commitment to re-growth. Furthermore, the publication of Margaret Mitchell's internationally renowned novel, *Gone with the Wind*, has forever sealed this beautiful town and its remarkable past into our nation's cultural cannon.

Madam Speaker, I am honored to represent such a remarkable city, a city which has played such an integral role in the history of the United States. I congratulate Jonesboro on this date, the 150th anniversary of its town's formation, and grant my sincerest wishes for its prosperity and success in the years to come.

COMMEMORATING THE 57TH ANNUAL NATIONAL PRAYER BREAKFAST, FEBRUARY 5TH, 2009

HON. HEATH SHULER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 14, 2009

Mr. SHULER. Madam Speaker, I had the privilege of co-chairing the 57th Annual National Prayer Breakfast with my colleague, Congressman VERN EHLERS of Michigan, on February 5, 2009. This annual gathering is held here in our Nation's Capital and is hosted by Members of the U.S. Senate and the U.S. House of Representatives weekly prayer breakfast groups. Every president since Dwight Eisenhower has spoken at the National Prayer Breakfast. This year, we were honored to have the participation of our President and the First Lady. President Obama continued the longstanding tradition of addressing the Breakfast. We were encouraged and inspired by his words as well as the remarks shared by the Right Honorable Tony Blair.

This year we hosted a gathering of over 4,000 individuals from all 50 States and from 182 countries around the world. So that all may benefit from the prayerful message relayed at the National Prayer Breakfast, I would like to request that a copy of the transcript of the 2009 proceedings be printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD at this time.

57TH NATIONAL PRAYER BREAKFAST—THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2009, HILTON WASHINGTON HOTEL, WASHINGTON, DC

CO-CHAIRS: U.S. REPRESENTATIVE VERN EHLERS AND U.S. REPRESENTATIVE HEATH SHULER

Congressman VERNON EHLERS: Good morning. Welcome to the National Prayer Breakfast.

Congressman HEATH SHULER: I am honored to introduce a great leader from North Carolina. Michell Hicks is the Principal Chief of the Eastern Band of Cherokees. He was elected to the position in 2003 and re-elected in 2007. He and his wife Marsha have five children. Chief Hicks is joined by Amanda Wolfe, who has won the honor of being Miss Cherokee. They will now offer our pre-breakfast prayer, the Lord's Prayer in English and Cherokee. Chief Hicks.

Chief MICHELL HICKS: It is an honor to be here this morning. I want to thank the Congressmen for the invitation and, most importantly, to thank the Lord for blessing each one of us today.

Miss CHEROKEE: "Our Father which art in Heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the Kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen."

Chief HICKS: (translates the Lord's Prayer in Cherokee)

Congressman SHULER: I would like to introduce our special guests that we have here this morning. Most of the folks at the head table will be introduced in their place in the program, but we would like to introduce the others as well—Mrs. Anita Skelton, daughter-in-law of the Congressman; Joanna Ehlers, the spouse of my co-chair; my wife, Nicole; and the First Lady of the United States, Michelle Obama.

Congressman EHLERS: I have the pleasure of introducing several heads of state and heads of government who have traveled to Washington to participate in this important

event. I would ask you to join me in welcoming:

President Rene Garcia Preval of Haiti
President Gloria Arroyo of the Philippines
Prime Minister Sali Berisha of Albania
Prime Minister Nikola Gruevski of Macedonia

Prime Minister Navinchandra Ramgoolam of Mauritius

We cannot recognize all of the foreign dignitaries without recognizing our own Vice President Biden.

It is a pleasure to have all of you here. In addition to those I have introduced, we also have former heads of government, vice presidents, and first ladies from the nations of Bulgaria, the Democratic Republic of Congo, the Dominican Republic, the Fiji Islands, Indonesia, Kenya, Mozambique, Pakistan, Senegal, and Tanzania. You all are most welcome. We are honored by your presence. Thank you all for being here.

Let me just say a bit about our weekly prayer breakfast—just so you know where we are coming from. Every Thursday morning from eight to nine o'clock, a group of us get together for prayer and singing. As we are singing hymns, echoing through the corridors of the Capitol, and then engaging in prayer, it always strikes me: "This is wonderful, right here in the capital of the United States, we are having this wonderful ceremony together, this event where we are recognizing God's place in our lives." Every week when we kick it off, the first words are "welcome to the best hour of the week." That is the way we feel about it. We are glad to welcome you to the best hour of the year, right here in this room.

Congressman SHULER: On Thursday mornings, it is very special that we have members of Congress, both Democrats and Republicans, who check their political parties at the door when they attend our breakfast. We are there to be united, to fellowship, to worship, to sing and to praise together. Many times we laugh together, we hear funny stories, and we cry together about the times that we miss our families and when we struggle. It is our members of Congress reaching out to one another and in prayer. We cherish those moments together. Each week we actually sing a hymn. The singing is not very good, I might add. It is very special that we have every state as well as 182 nations represented here today. We get to hear some wonderful singing and wonderful worship on this great day. I would like to introduce to you professional musicians to take the members of Congress's place. I think God really appreciates that. Our musical guests this morning are Casting Crowns, led by Mark Hall.

CASTING CROWNS: [sing] "Oh, what I would do to have the kind of faith it takes to climb out of this boat; I'm in onto the crashing waves. Just step out of my comfort zone to the realm of being known where Jesus is and is holding out his hand, but the waves are calling out my name and they laugh at me, reminding me of all the times I've tried before and failed. The waves, they keep on telling me time and time again boy you'll never win, you'll never win but the voice of truth, it tells me a different story. The voice of truth says do not be afraid, and the voice of truth said this is for my glory out of all the voices calling out to me I would choose to listen and believe the voice of truth."

And oh what I would do to have the kind of strength it takes to stand before a giant with just a sling and a stone. Surrounded by the sound of a thousand warriors shaking in their armor, wishing they'd of had the strength to stand, but the giant's calling out my name and he laughs at me, reminding me of all the times I've tried before and failed, the giant keeps on telling me time and time